

HEART OF DREAMING

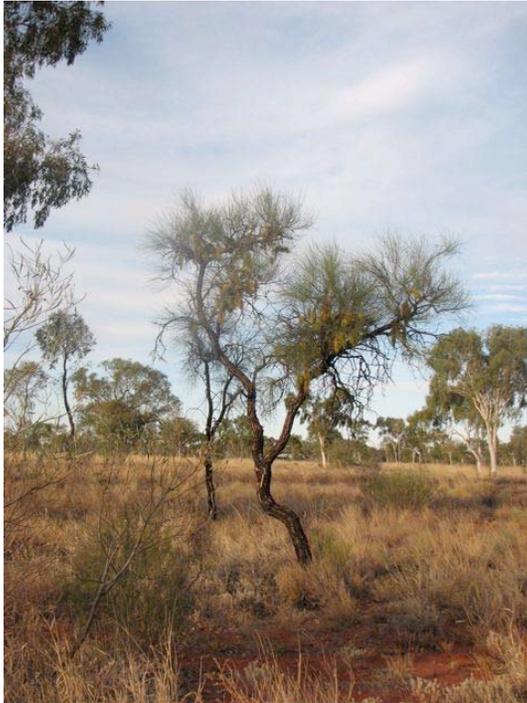
CENTRE FOR SOCIO-ANALYSIS

"HEART OF DREAMING" CONFERENCE

16 – 20 SEPTEMBER 2009

UTOPIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY





SPIRIT OF THE ENDEAVOUR

Heart as metaphor of compassion and connectedness, an energy that emanates the spirit of 'filoxenos' within the animation of being and all being.

Landscape and all that lies upon it is inseparable from this metaphorical heart, which is boundaryless in time and space.

Musing on the idea that it is movement beyond time and location and towards a union of one's heart energy with all 'dreaming' that engenders the spirit for exploring the "heart of dreaming".

The idea for this Conference grew from a wish among members of the Dream Sharing Program in 2008 to take the dreaming into each other's workplace. This jibed with previous explorations in 2007 about a dreaming expedition to Utopia. Members of the Dream Sharing Program who wished to take this idea further – David Patman, Karen Vella, Sara Taylor, Michelle Boyde, Robert Fatchen, Kam Saraswati, and the two consultants – Alastair Bain and Peter Hetrelezis, met on 5 occasions in late 2008 for dream sharing and planning. Richard Tanter joined us in October.

Peter, Alastair and Kam met with Ricky, a Utopia Community leader in late November, and discussed what the project would involve.

Ricky suggested a possible camping place for us which is the sandy bed of a river that only flows during very heavy rains and flood time.

PRIMARY TASK

The Primary Task of the Conference is to "To explore the heart of dreaming".

DATES

The Conference proper begins in Utopia on **Wednesday, 16th September and concludes on Sunday, 20th September, 2009.**

We will travel from Alice Springs to Utopia and set up camp on 15th September, and decamp and return to Alice Springs on 21st September.



Utopia is the name of the Alyawarre and Anmatyerre homelands, a former cattle station 400km NE of Alice Springs, which became aboriginal freehold land in 1975. The traditional owners chose to live a semi-traditional lifestyle on 16 outlying settlements, rather than following the example of other communities by forming a centralised town. This has led to a greater dependence on traditional dietary sources, with preservation of traditional authority, lifestyle and culture. Health parameters here are significantly better than the NT generally as outlined in Medical Journal of Australia in 2008.

Out bush, nothing is quite what it seems. The Sandover Highway is a dirt track, the Sandover River, where we will be camping and dreaming together, is a dry sandy riverbed. When it flows, about once in a decade, following torrential rains, the water carried northeast spreads over western Queensland, the so called Channel Country, and eventually fills the vast salt lakes of South Australia, which become a sub-tropical paradise almost overnight. This occurred several times last century. These are the ancient cycles of this amazing and unique continent. May our dreams at Utopia tap into them!

The word "Utopia" is a western concept, an image of a social nirvana, a perfect place, state or community, free of the usual discordances and difficulties associated with human existence. How this area of the Northern Territory came to be known as Utopia remains unclear. Visitors are likely to experience a paradoxical society of over a thousand people living diffusely, yet interdependently, without a central locus or focus. While this is frustrating for government and mainstream service delivery, it may be allowing traditional ways to better survive the onslaughts of the modern world culture and view, which has been so destructive to traditional societies worldwide. In any case, the name has certainly stuck!

UTOPIA



HISTORY OF SOCIAL AND ORGANISATIONAL DREAMING IN AUSTRALIA

The first Social Dreaming Conference in Australia was held in Melbourne in 1989, and directed by Gordon Lawrence, the “re-discoverer” of social dreaming. The Conference was sponsored by the Australian Institute of Socio-Analysis (AISA).

A weekly Social Dreaming Matrix was run for 6 years in the 1990’s – for 3 by Alastair Bain and Suzanne Ross, and for 3 years by Alastair. Social Dreaming was integrated in AISA’s Group Relations Conferences¹ in the 1990’s (the first organisation to do so in the world), and in socio-analytic training programs and workshops in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth. The first use of organisational dreaming in consultancy in Australia was with the Wasley Institute in 1994. (See Alastair Bain *“Organisational Dreaming”*, 2006, under Articles in www.acsa.net.au). It has since been incorporated in consultancies with the Brotherhood of St.Laurence, Telstra, Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, Victoria Police, and Yooralla.

Social Dreaming formed part of the International Group Relations and Scientific Conference sponsored by AISA in 1993 on the theme “Exploring Global Social Dynamics”, and the International Group Relations Conference in 2002 on “Primary Spirit”.

“Mallacoota Dreaming” Conferences were held in 2002 and 2003 at Karbeethong Lodge. Both explored the co-evolution of community and social dreaming, and the

2003 Conference was on the theme “Wondering, Gathering, Becoming”.

More recently Social Dreaming was part of the “Transitions” Conference, “From Fear to Creativity” at Point Lonsdale in 2005, sponsored by the Centre for Socio-Analysis. Organisational Dreaming formed part of the Consultant Role Analysis Training Program in 2006. It has now been integrated with the Bion Reading Groups. The first Dream Sharing Program was held in 2008.



The Centre for Socio-Analysis was founded in 2004 in Victoria. The Centre develops socio-analytic ideas and methods pioneered at the Tavistock Institute in London, at the Australian Institute of Socio-Analysis, and by other organisations and practitioners who work in the socio-analytic tradition pioneered by Wilfred Bion.

The Centre formally defines its primary task as: "To increase human capacities through socio-analysis".

The Centre for Socio-Analysis is concerned to explore new forms of community, and organisation for our society; ways of being together, and working together, that engender the expression of human spirit, and the growth of our capacities

For a description of the Centre's activities see www.acsa.net.au

THE CENTRE FOR
SOCIO-ANALYSIS

Socio-Analysis is "the activity of exploration, consultancy, and action research which combines and synthesises methodologies and theories, derived from psycho-analysis, group relations, social systems thinking, organisation behaviour, and social dreaming" (Bain, 1999).

*For a description of socio-analysis, and its history, see the article in Wikipedia:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socio-Analysis>*



PROGRAM

We intend to work from early morning to mid morning and from late afternoon to evening. This gives us the middle of the day free for what emerges. The Program will be flexible within the parameters of there being a Dream Sharing session each morning and each evening followed by a session of Quickening: reflecting on emerging themes that are relevant for our task of exploring the heart of dreaming. Each day of the Conference will also include a session on how the group is faring and our dynamics.

It is our intention to work from a spirit of being inclusive, and of being present and available for experience.



DREAM SHARING MATRIX

The word “matrix” comes from the Latin word meaning “uterus”, the place where something can be grown. In this case we are exploring what may be grown through sharing dreams, associating to one’s own and other’s dreams, and making connections. The focus of these sessions is on linking with others in a free associative space that will stimulate the realization and development of shared meanings.

The consultants to the Matrix are Alastair Bain, Peter Hetrelezis Jill Webb, and Sara Taylor.

The consultant role is to hold the task of the Matrix in mind, attend to space and time boundaries, and within the Matrix to make connections between dreams.



The Task of the Dream Sharing Matrix is to offer dreams, associate to the dreams and to make connections between dreams.

During the Conference there will be 10 one hour sessions.

QUICKENING

Following each Dream Matrix there will be a half hour session to explore what has been grown in the Matrix that is relevant for our task: exploring the heart of dreaming.

Consultants to the Quickenning will be the Consultants to the Matrix that has just concluded.

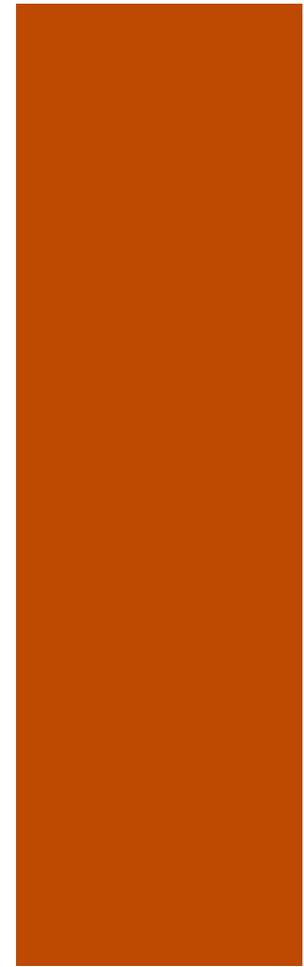


EXPLORATION OF GROUP DYNAMICS

Each day of the Conference there will be a half hour session with the task being: ***To explore the dynamics of the group.***

Consultants: David Patman and Sara Taylor

The following elements and events may also be drawn on during the conference.





HEART OF DREAMING DRAWING

We will have the opportunity to do a drawing of how we sense or experience the heart of dreaming. Drawings are done on one's own and then shared with the larger group. Session will last 2 hours.

PRAXIS

Exploring the notion within Praxis of "being in action".

After the negotiation of a task which has to be in line with the Conference primary task members are free to engage with the task in whatever way they choose: e.g. drawing, taking photographs, writing poems, singing, sculpting, walking,, gathering, and wondering. Each session of 2.5 hours concludes with a 30 minute Plenary for reflecting on the experience.



ORIGINS EVENT

This Event traces how we come to be present in the group from our different family backgrounds and history. What do we carry from these histories of pre Australia, arrival in Australia to now? This event will include an opportunity to share our family stories and to explore the notion of "family karma". Session will last for half a day.

Consultants: Alastair Bain and Michelle Boyde

'O' EVENT

This Event seeks to explore the 'O' (Bion's term) of the conjunction between our community and the task we have. The intention is to be open and receptive to an experience sans memory, desire or understanding. Session will last for 1 hour with half-an-hour sharing the experience. Consultant: Alastair Bain



DIALOGUES

Dialogues – 1 hour - are for the exploration of ideas, concepts and thoughts which are relevant for our work. After a short introduction by the dialogue leader – about 10 - 15 minutes – there follows a collegial exploration of the themes.

Peter Hetrelezis will offer the first Dialogue on Time: Reflection on the tension between natural time and space, and time as a construct. This will be offered within the context of the theme and location of our exploration.



YOGA

The mornings will begin with the opportunity to practice yoga with Michelle and Sara.

CELEBRATING THROUGH MUSIC, DANCE AND FOOD

The conference will include the opportunity to celebrate our experiences of exploring the "heart of dreaming" through dance, music and enjoying food together.

As part of our celebrations:

OFFERINGS

This might be a story, poem, a drawing, dance, music etc.



MEMBERSHIP

Conference membership is limited to 18 people. No previous experience of dream sharing is necessary.

LOGISTICS

Members are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to arrive in Alice Springs early on 15th September. The organisers will arrange for their transportation to the campsite at Utopia on 15th.

CAMPING

We will be camping in a dry sandy river bed. Swags will be provided, as will a bush toilet, bush shower, and folding chairs

Catering for the 5 days will be organised by Roy Price of Ethical Nutrition Services. He will provide trestle tables, esky, gas burners, laundry sink for washing up, all utensils, and a 12 volt lighting system.



FEE

The inclusive fee covering transportation to and from Alice Springs, camping equipment, meals for the 5 days, catering services, campsite fee, consultant fees, and administrative costs is \$1390 + GST = \$1529.

ADMINISTRATION

A deposit of \$400 is to accompany the application form. The balance of the fee is payable by 1st September.

The deposit, or full fee if paid, less \$50 will be refunded in case of withdrawal before 1st September. Half the fee will be refunded in case of withdrawal 1st - 16th September. There are no refunds once the Program has started.





CENTRE FOR SOCIO-ANALYSIS

PO BOX 1296
CARLTON 3053
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

www.acsa.net.au

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

"HEART OF DREAMING" CONFERENCE

16 – 20 SEPTEMBER 2009

CENTRE FOR SOCIO-ANALYSIS

ABN 49 109 435 403

Name: _____ Dr/Mr/Ms/etc _____

Address for Correspondence _____

Postcode _____

Contact telephone: (w) _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

Role and Organisation (if any) _____

Dream Sharing Experience _____

Expectations of Program _____

DECLARATION

I have read this brochure and hereby apply for membership. I understand that this constitutes a contract between the Centre for Socio-Analysis and me and that my application authorises the Centre for Socio-Analysis to conduct this Program in the manner described in the brochure. I agree to the cancellation policy.

Signature _____ Date _____

PAYMENT

Payment may be made:

- through transfer to the Centre for Socio-Analysis Bank Account: : **Bendigo Bank: BSB 633000. Account Number: 122883523**
- or through a cheque payable to the Centre for Socio-Analysis

APPLICATION FORM

Please return this application form together with a deposit cheque for \$400, or the fee \$1529, or notification of transfer to:

David Patman

Administrator

Heart of Dreaming Conference

Centre for Socio-Analysis

BOX 1296 Carlton

Victoria 3053